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MAILERS COUNCIL

April 7, 1998

Honorable John McHugh
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Postal Service
B-349 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20215

Dear Chairman McHugh:

This responds to your February 27 letter soliciting comments from the Mailers Council on your revisions to HR 22, the Postal Reform Act of 1997. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill in which our members have great interest.

The Council is the postal community's most diverse coalition of mailers and mailing associations, including for-profit and nonprofit mailers, that collectively accounts for 70 percent of the nation's mail volume. Concern about postal costs is the unifying issue for the Council's members, who have spent considerable time reviewing and discussing both your original bill and the revisions you released last December. Such diversity of membership is often accompanied by a wide range of opinions, particularly on as comprehensive a reform bill as you have proposed.

Because our members have differing views on some specific provisions in your amended bill, they will express their opinions to you individually. However, the entire Council does agree on the importance of sustaining the U.S. Postal Service as an integral part of the nation's communications network. We realize that for the Postal Service to retain this status, changes to the Postal Reorganization Act may be necessary. Whatever changes you include, we hope the revised HR 22 will reflect the Council's primary objective in the debate on postal reform: to ensure that the Postal Service has the opportunity to provide the lowest possible postal rates without compromising service.

Thank you for your many months of diligent work on postal reform, and for the hours of dedicated service you have provided as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Service.

Regards,

Robert E. McLean
Executive Director